

Leadership and the actualization of sustainable development in Africa: The African Peer Review Mechanism in focus

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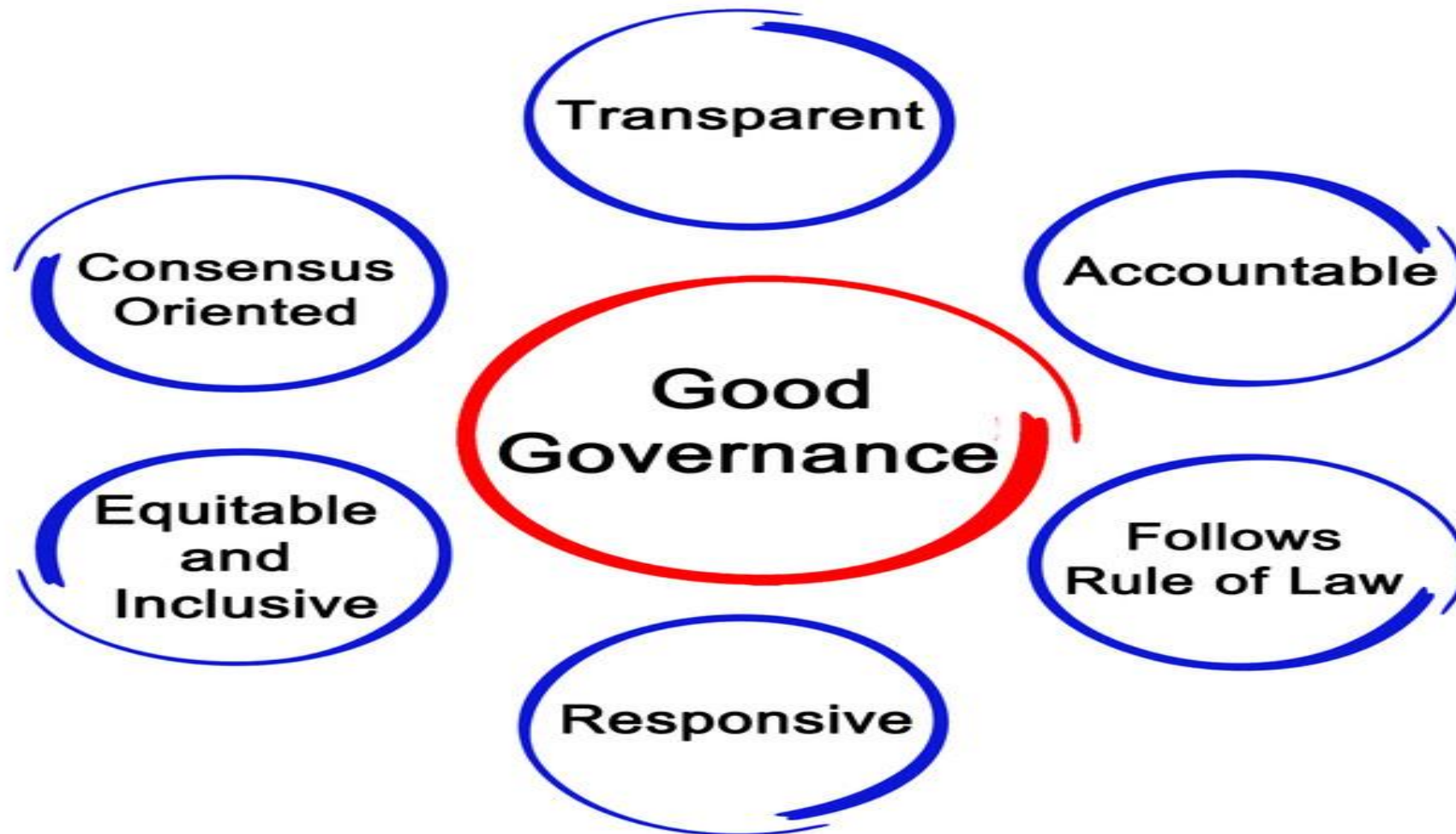
Introduction

- ▶ The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is Africa's self-assessment for good governance.
- ▶ It was “initiated in 2002 and established in 2003 by the African Union in the framework of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)”.
- ▶ It is a self-monitoring mechanism designed to promote sustainable development in Africa.
- ▶ Its objectives are:
 - ▶ 1. Foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences
 - ▶ 2. Share experiences and reinforce successful and best practices including addressing identified challenges.

Good governance

- ▶ Central to the APRM is good governance
- ▶ APRM's four thematic areas are the cornerstones of good governance
 - ▶ These are:
 - ▶ Democracy and Political Governance (DPG)
 - ▶ Economic Governance and Management (EGM)
 - ▶ Corporate Governance (CG)
 - ▶ Broad-based Sustainable Socio-economic Development (SED)
- ▶ Good governance connotes the extent at which the political and institutional processes and outcomes designed to achieve the goals of development delivers on the promises and objectives of promoting common good (Sarpong and Bein 2021; Pomeranz and Stedman 2020; Raszkowski and Bartniczak 2018).

Good Governance



Sustainable Development

- ▶ **Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**
- ▶ Sustainability rest on fur pillars
- ▶ And 17 development goals (SDG)



Sustainable Development



Sustainable Development Goals



Leadership

- ▶ Leadership is crucial for the achievement of the objectives of the APRM, Good Governance and the SDG
- ▶ Leadership in the public sector harness all institutional resources to solve the problems and challenges faced in a specific environment for the promotion of public goods (Ashikali, Groeneveld, and Kuipers, 2021).
- ▶ Inclusive and accountable leadership is a *sine qua non* for sustainable development (Sachs, Kroll, Lafortune, Fuller, and Woelm, 2021; Ashikali, Groeneveld, and Kuipers, 2021).
- ▶ Corruption and mismanagement of public resources drain sustainable development (Hameduddin and Engbers, 2022).

Leadership in Africa

- ▶ Public sector Leadership in Africa has remained challenge to sustainable development (Fagbadebo and Dorasamy 2021).
- ▶ The major characteristic feature of African leadership is corruption and their inability to harness public resources for public goods (Asamoah and Yeboah-Assiamah 2019; Fagbadebo 2019; Genger 2018).
- ▶ Public display of ill-gotten wealth by the leadership amid poverty and hunger makes a mockery of the APRM
- ▶ Poverty amid abundance resources is paradox in Africa.
- ▶ And it is a reflection of leadership failure

Leadership and Sustainable Development in Africa

- ▶ Sustainable development thrives where governance is right and good (Razzkowski & Bartniczak 2018; Leal Filho, W., Salvia, A. L., Frankenberger, Akib, Sen, Sivapalan, Novo-Corti, Venkatesan, and Emblen-Perry, 2021; Phale, & Kgosiemang 2021).
- ▶ The success of APRM and the SDG depends on the degree of accountable leadership (Baba & Mngomezulu 2021; Masola 2022; Unya, Akputa, & Nnadozie 2022; Okudolo & Ojakorotu 2021).

Leadership and Sustainable Development in Africa

- ▶ Governance revolves around accountable management of the public sector resources in a manner that would stimulate development
- ▶ “the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development” (World Bank 1993)
- ▶ the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences (UNDP 1997).
- ▶ “consists of the traditions and institutions by which authority is exercised” (World Bank 1993).
- ▶ The management of public sector in Africa run contrary to these expectations

Leadership and Sustainable Development in Africa

- ▶ Corruption-infested institutions cannot stamp out corruption in government (Sinha, Gupta, Shahbaz, & Sengupta, 2019; Wimpy, C., 2021)
- ▶ African public institutions are captured by the political and bureaucratic elites (Wimpy, 2021).
- ▶ Corruption and poverty characterize the features of African society with 460 million citizens living in extreme poverty (European Investment Bank 2022).
- ▶ Corrupt leadership cannot win anti-corruption war. Corruption in Africa is a pandemic that has dwarfed growth and development (Mhaka 2022; Agbakwuru 2022).
- ▶ AU's anti-corruption war lacks the political will needed to promote sustainable governance (Fagbadebo 2019; 2022).

Conclusion

- ▶ Ethical leadership is required to promote sustainable development in Africa and make meaning of the APRM objectives.